GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3618
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
POPULATION OF SNAKES
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to dwindling population of snakes, the rat menace has increased in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decrease in the population of snakes;

(c) whether any latest census has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and maintain the population of snakes in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b) There are no reports to suggest that the rat menace in the country has increased due to dwindling population of snakes. However due to qualitative and quantitative decline in habitat decrease in population of snakes can not be ruled out.

(c) & (d) Due to borrowing habit and secretive nature of snakes their census is technically not feasible.

(e) The steps taken to protect snakes include:

i. Hunting of snakes has been banned under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
ii. Habitats of snakes are getting protection under network of national parks and sanctuaries.
iii. Regular patrolling of the area to control poaching and illegal trade in wild animals and their products is done.
iv. Management of the wildlife habitats is done on scientific lines for betterment of wildlife.
v. Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of wildlife habitat in national parks and sanctuaries.
vi. Creation of awareness about the importance of Wildlife conservation.
vii. National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-16 and Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 have been framed and adopted in January 2002.